INFORMATION LETTER

Not for Publication — NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION — For Members Only

No. 1138 — Washington, D. C. — June 7, 1947

Canners Urged to Return Directory Questionnaires

The Association is again requesting canners, who have not done so, to complete and return as soon as possible their questionnaires for the 1947 Canners Directory. Copy for this publication is nearing completion.

As no charge is made for the individual canner information contained in the new Canners Directory, the Association hopes to have the full cooperation of the entire canning industry in supplying the data needed to compile the Directory.

The Can Manufacturers Institute and the American Meat Institute have joined together in a nationwide advertising and publicity promotion program for canned meats. The campaign got under way a few days ago. For further details see story on page 284.

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Loading of revenue freight for the week ended May 31, 1947 totaled 830,383 cars, the Association of American Railroads announced this week. This was an increase of 203,498 cars or 32.5 percent above the corresponding week in 1946 when carloadings were reduced somewhat due to labor difficulties, but a decrease of 7,503 cars or nine tenths of one percent below the same week in 1945.

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Shipments of five canned foods—green and wax beans, corn, peas, tomatoes, and tomato juice—by packers, wholesalers, and warehouses of retail food chains to retailers and other consumer outlets totaled 7.1 million cases (actual cases, all can sizes combined) during April, compared with 7.6 million cases shipped in March, and with 9.2 million cases moved in April a year ago, the U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, has announced. For these and other statistics, please turn to pages 280 and 281.

Canners Granted More Sugar for Their 1947 Packs

Increased sugar allowances for fruit and vegetable canners and a change to a provisional allowance for pickle packers became effective June 2 when the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Sugar Rationing Administration announced amendments to Third Revised Ration Order 3 and to Supplement 1 of the basic sugar rationing order. The terms of the new amendments are designed to conform to the understanding reached with USDA officials and a special committee of canners during a series of meetings held in Washington late in April. (See INFORMATION LETTERS for April 26 and May 3, pages 219 and 227.)

The new amendment requires all canners using sugar in any commodity on a provisional allowance basis to submit reports of production by plants as well as a consolidated report. Other changes in the regulations increase the provisional allowances for frozen fruits and vegetables.

The new regulation increases the provisional sugar allowance for fruit canners to 100 percent of their 1941 base usage and establishes a floor of 95 percent of the industry average usage in 1941. Spiced and brandied (See *Canners Granted More Sugar*, page 285)

Portal-to-Portal Act Analyzed By Association Counsel

The Portal-to-Portal Act of 1947, which was signed by the President on May 14, covers wage claims under the Fair Labor Standards, the Walsh-Healey, and the Bacon-Davis Acts. Canners will be especially interested in the following provisions of the Act: The provision dealing with the two-year limitation period on back wage suits, the "good faith" provision protecting employers who rely on administrative rulings, and the provision protecting employers who have followed the various "area of production" regulations under the Fair Labor Standards Act. A complete analysis of the Portal-to-Portal Act, as prepared by Association Counsel, appears on page 282 of this issue.

Propose Changes in Canned Shrimp and Oyster Standards

A public hearing will be held on July 8 to consider the shrimp canners proposal to reduce the present fill of container requirements for canned shrimp. Another hearing has been called on July 10 for canned (See *Shrimp and Oyster Standards*, page 285)

Statistics

Wholesale and Packer Stocks and Shipments Decrease Slightly

Shipments of five canned foods—green and wax beans, corn, peas, tomatoes and tomato juice—by packers, wholesalers, and warehouses of retail food chains to retailers and other consumer outlets totaled 7.1 million cases (actual cases, all can sizes combined) during April, compared with 7.6 million cases shipped in March, and with 9.2 million cases moved in April a year ago, the U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, has announced. (Tables 1 and 3.)

Wholesale distributor stocks of 14 items (Table 2) totaled 52.7 million cases on May 1, 1947, a decrease of 7 percent from the 56.4 million cases on hand April 1. Compared with a year ago stocks of these 14 commodities were up 44 percent. Combined packer and wholesale stocks of five of the 14 commodities—green and wax beans, corn, peas, tomatoes and tomato juice (Table 1)—amounted to 53.8 million cases on May 1 as against 60.9 million cases April 1 and 28.3 million cases on May 1 of last year, the Census Bureau stated.

The following tables are the first in a revised series of monthly canned foods reports designed to provide information on stocks, at the wholesale level, of four vegetables, five fruits, and five juices. The statistics were based on a sample of wholesalers and warehouses of retail food chains who reported to the Census Bureau, and are given in actual cases only. Available pertinent data compiled by the National Canners Association are incorporated in the reports to provide information on packers' stocks and shipments from wholesale-packer levels.

Canned Milk Statistics

A total of 321,200,000 pounds of canned evaporated milk was produced during April, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. This April output is 8 percent higher than a year earlier but is the same as the 1941-45 average for the month. It is the third highest of record for the month, having been exceeded only by the April output in 1945 and 1942. During the first four months of the year, production totaled 1,008,500,000 pounds, a gain of 12 percent from the same period in 1946. The seasonal gain from March to April was less than a year earlier but slightly higher than the average gain during 1941-45.

April output of canned condensed milk was 11,750,000 pounds, a gain of 15 percent from a year earlier and 9 percent from the 1941-45 average. Production rose 36 percent from March to April this year compared with a 2 percent gain in 1946 and an average increase of 12 percent during the period 1941-45.

Manufacturers' stocks of canned evaporated milk on April 30 were 148,266,000 pounds, a gain of 84 percent from a year earlier but a decrease of 7 percent from the 5-year average for the date.

Table 1. Five Canned Food Commodities

WHOLESALE AND PACKER STOCKS AND SHIPMENTS (COMBINED)

Commodity	Combined Stocks — May 1, 1947[1]	Combined Stocks — April 1, 1947[1]	Combined Stocks — May 1, 1946	Combined Shipments — April, 1947	Combined Shipments — March, 1947	Combined Shipments — April, 1946
	1,000 cases	*1,000 cases*	*1,000 cases*	*1,000 cases*	*1,000 cases*	*1,000 cases*
Beans, green and wax	6,472	7,617	4,139	1,145	1,060	1,262
Corn	12,062	13,968	7,901	1,906	2,437	3,109
Peas	16,332	18,129	8,776	1,797	1,646	2,383
Tomatoes	5,543	6,571	2,385	1,028	1,263	702
Tomato juice[2]	13,418	14,660	5,105	1,242	1,212	1,704
Total, five commodities	53,827	60,945	28,306	7,118	7,618	9,160

Table 2. Fourteen Canned Food Commodities

STOCKS OF WHOLESALE DISTRIBUTORS (INCLUDING WAREHOUSES OF RETAIL FOOD CHAINS)

Commodity	May 1, 1947[p]	April 1, 1947	March 1, 1947	May 1, 1946	Average May 1, 1943–1945
	1,000 cases	*1,000 cases*	*1,000 cases*	*1,000 cases*	*1,000 cases*
VEGETABLES:					
Beans, green and wax	4,340	4,893	5,361	2,954	4,164
Corn	9,345	10,106	10,876	5,992	6,536
Peas	10,828	11,578	11,990	6,343	4,160
Tomatoes	4,559	5,036	5,540	975	5,187
FRUITS:					
Apricots	2,081	2,279	2,462	300	438
Mixed fruits[1]	921	1,127	1,280	291	724
Peaches	4,281	4,923	5,252	1,096	1,862
Pears	845	908	984	536	725
Pineapple	316	351	436	510	734
JUICES:					
Tomato[2]	7,143	7,783	8,280	3,592	4,743
Grapefruit	3,692	3,415	3,158	7,246	7,791
Orange	2,733	2,501	2,172	4,020	.....
Blended citrus	1,331	1,277	1,123	2,485	2,554
Pineapple	248	234	276	345	424
Total, fourteen commodities	52,663	56,411	59,190	36,585	40,042

Table 3. Five Canned Food Commodities

PACKERS STOCKS MAY 1, 1946-47 AND APRIL 1, 1947[1]

Can sizes	Beans, green and wax	Corn	Peas	Tomato	Tomato juice[2]
	1,000 cases	*1,000 cases*	*1,000 cases*	*1,000 cases*	*1,000 cases*
No. 2	1,859	2,173	5,085	351	2,749
No. 2½	59	.....	.....	537	.....
No. 10	210	18	418	96	348
Other sizes	4	526	1	(4)	3,178[3]
May 1, 1947, all sizes	2,132	2,717	5,504	984	6,275
April 1, 1947, all sizes	2,734	3,862	6,551	1,535	6,877
May 1, 1946, all sizes	NA	1,517	1,185	NA	1,073

[1] Source: Information on packers stocks supplied by National Canners' Association. [2] Includes vegetable juice combinations containing at least 70 percent tomato juice. [3] Includes fruit cocktail, fruits for salads, and mixed fruits (except citrus). [4] Less than 1,000 cases. [5] Includes 3,158,790 cases of No. 3 cyl. [p] Preliminary. NA Not available.

1946 Frozen Fruit and Vegetable Packs Set All-time Record

The 1946 pack of frozen fruits totaled 523,000,000 pounds, or 22 percent more than the 1945 pack of 430,000,000 pounds, and set an all-time record, according to the National Association of Frozen Food Packers. NAFFP also reported that the 1946 pack of frozen vegetables totaled 450,000,000 pounds or 46 percent above the 1945 pack of 308,000,000 pounds, and also was a record pack.

The major part of the increase in the frozen fruit pack was in consumer sizes, with the pack of large institutional and industrial sizes only slightly up from last year. In the case of frozen vegetables the largest relative increase was in consumer sizes, comparatively little increase in medium sizes, and a considerable increase in large sizes. A summary of the pack by containers for 1945 and 1946 is shown below:

Pack by Size of Container

	1945	1946
	Million pounds	
Frozen fruits:		
1 lb. and under	42.5	124.6
1 to 10 pounds	16.1	23.2
Over 10 pounds	371.5	375.5
Total	430.1	523.3
Frozen vegetables:		
1 lb. and under	137.2	254.0
1 to 10 pounds	120.3	124.7
Over 10 pounds	50.5	71.3
Total	308.0	450.0

The pack of frozen fruits and vegetables by products is shown below for the years 1942 to 1946:

Frozen Fruit Pack by Items

Products	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946
	Pounds	*Pounds*	*Pounds*	*Pounds*	*Pounds*
Blackberries	8,229,190	8,309,453	16,173,214	21,503,229	19,750,261
Blueberries	1,716,156	2,700,148	4,962,721	7,828,944	10,240,067
Boysenberries	2,060,806	1,669,418	4,194,318	7,084,067	10,905,107
Gooseberries	613,904	1,180,224	1,646,307	1,557,955	1,430,389
Loganberries	2,651,803	1,288,506	3,098,304	2,522,402	3,016,866
Black raspberries	6,207,453	5,366,594	5,922,655	3,477,316	5,516,365
Red raspberries	14,205,620	14,607,642	13,117,060	13,254,453	23,904,626
Strawberries	63,776,203	29,828,978	34,825,459	36,916,743	78,059,148
Youngberries	2,146,246	1,249,043	2,477,442	2,550,634	1,765,577
Cherries, red sour	41,819,884	23,005,362	55,058,949	16,143,827	88,061,401
Currants	3,409,743	2,598,496	4,820,205	2,667,567	4,219,202
Apples and applesauce	15,110,065	27,810,135	52,390,891	92,985,406	78,219,867
Apricots	5,264,556	10,012,121	42,616,708	65,158,052	43,571,459
Peaches	13,801,217	17,008,527	45,562,689	103,634,388	65,140,192
Prunes	2,855,724	22,130,794	18,097,764	18,368,454	14,106,368
Miscellaneous fruits	10,782,353	18,492,418	19,221,668	34,523,108	75,374,216
Total	194,644,923	187,266,859	323,886,354	430,176,545	523,281,201

Frozen Vegetable Pack by Items

Products	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946
	Pounds	*Pounds*	*Pounds*	*Pounds*	*Pounds*
Asparagus	5,769,452	9,619,255	12,339,171	20,637,500	28,316,074
Beans, green and wax	13,783,667	24,491,237	23,752,999	31,460,363	40,974,804
Beans, lima	29,403,075	20,889,233	29,549,528	28,475,697	50,082,682
Broccoli	3,223,195	4,881,446	6,839,582	11,655,577	25,788,855
Brussels sprouts	3,429,558	4,838,527	4,919,560	6,606,310	13,521,280
Carrots	1,042,884	2,239,822	903,234	6,050,973	9,069,314
Cauliflower	1,199,797	2,512,666	4,820,680	7,391,186	13,236,775
Corn—cut	9,369,276	21,449,498	20,982,900	25,551,366	42,426,691
Corn-on-cob	1,766,843	845,809	605,790	445,388	2,295,656
Peas	59,077,163	70,310,152	79,152,398	103,833,553	140,602,919
Peas and carrots	1,056,488	1,619,739	2,086,073	5,321,501	7,186,108
Rhubarb	834,170	3,620,189	4,365,920	6,851,526	10,566,207
Spinach	16,575,125	24,647,793	31,947,367	36,720,643	38,185,104
Succotash	61,566	248,514	1,112,298	1,756,961	3,409,548
Pumpkin and squash	2,633,121	8,343,702	10,002,144	7,353,584	10,008,776
Miscellaneous vegetables	3,287,090	7,294,611	3,712,773	7,865,052	14,329,410
Total	152,512,470	207,871,993	237,092,417	307,977,360	450,000,203

Rail and Boat Shipments of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables

Rail and boat shipments of fresh fruits and vegetables (exclusive of white potatoes) totaled 12,857 cars for the week ending May 31, 1947, according to a report of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. These shipments were slightly higher than those for the preceding week but were 19 percent less than shipments for the corresponding week of last season.

The following table, compiled from statistics of USDA's Production and Marketing Administration, gives comparisons of carlot shipments of selected fresh fruits and vegetables for certain periods:

	Week ending		
	May 31, 1947	May 24, 1947	June 1, 1946
VEGETABLES	*Carloads*	*Carloads*	*Carloads*
Beans, snap and lima	197	213	169
Tomatoes	1,480	1,279	1,787
Green peas	26	75	62
Spinach	2	7	1
Others	5,432	5,437	6,084
FRUITS			
Citrus	2,931	3,729	4,250
Other	2,789	1,836	3,445
Total	12,857	12,576	15,798

USDA Meat Production Report

Meat production under Federal inspection for the week ended May 31 totaled 267 million pounds, according to the U. S. Department of Agriculture. This production was 9 percent below the 295 million pounds produced during the preceding week but 43 percent above the 187 million pounds recorded for the corresponding week of last year.

Canned Poultry Statistics

The quantity of poultry canned or used in canning during April totaled 7,675,000 pounds, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reports. This was 24 percent less than the quantity canned in April last year and the smallest April quantity in five years of record. The poultry canned or used in canning during April consisted of 7,408,000 pounds of chicken and 267,000 pounds of turkey. The following tables show the quantities canned by months and years:

	1945	1946	1947
	Pounds	*Pounds*	*Pounds*
January	15,343,000	13,369,000	9,458,000
February	16,390,000	11,581,000	7,423,000
March	18,746,000	11,402,000	6,148,000
April	18,392,000	10,118,000	7,675,000
May	20,011,000	11,573,000	.....
June	14,401,000	10,687,000	.....
July	7,764,000	8,464,000	.....
August	8,034,000	10,978,000	.....
September	4,759,000	7,583,000	.....
October	5,815,000	10,855,000	.....
November	8,972,000	9,682,000	.....
December	7,960,000	8,905,000	.....
Total	146,587,000	125,197,000	30,704,000

Glass Container Production

Production of glass containers in April totaled 10.3 million gross, the Bureau of the Census reported this week. This total was slightly lower than March production but over 750 thousand gross, and 8 percent greater than output in April, 1946.

Labor

AN ANALYSIS OF THE PORTAL-TO-PORTAL ACT OF 1947

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following analysis of the Portal-to-Portal Act of 1947, which was prepared by Association Counsel, describes the provisions of the Act which are of special concern to canners.

The Portal-to-Portal Act of 1947 which was signed by the President on May 14 covers wage claims under the Fair Labor Standards Act, the Walsh-Healey Act and the Bacon-Davis Act (work on government projects). Of special interest to canners are the two-year limitation period on back wage suits, the "good faith" provision protecting employers who rely on administrative rulings, and the provision protecting employers who have followed the various "area of production" regulations under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

The Act is split up into three parts —a section covering wage claims existing on May 14, 1947, a section on future wage claims for work done after May 14, 1947, and a section containing miscellaneous provisions as to both existing and future claims.

As to wage claims existing on May 14, 1947, for work done before that date the Act provides that no employer shall be subject to any liability or punishment for failure to pay minimum wages or overtime compensation for any activity which was not compensable either by an express provision of a contract or by a custom or practice in effect at the establishment where the employee was employed. Furthermore, no activity shall be considered compensable for the purpose of this section unless the activity is carried on during the portion of the day during which activities are compensable according to contract or custom. This section also takes away the power of the court, both State and Federal, to hear any cases in which it is sought to enforce any liability or impose any punishment for failure to pay for activities not compensable by contract or custom.

Employers May Compromise Claims

Previous to the passage of the Portal Pay Act the Supreme Court had held in several cases that an employer could not compromise any claim by his employees for wages or overtime under the Fair Labor Standards Act even where a dispute was involved as to whether or not the employer was liable. (See INFORMATION LETTERS for May 4, 1946, and for April 21, 1945, pages 195 and 8599.) The Portal Pay Act provides that if there is a *bona fide* dispute as to the amount payable by an employer to his employee for work done before May 14, 1947, the employee's claim may be settled or compromised in whole or in part. However, no settlement may be made on a basis of lower wage rates than those provided for in the applicable acts. The Portal Pay Act specifically provides that an employee may waive his right to liquidated damages under the Fair Labor Standards Act for any activity performed before May 14, 1947.

The section of the Act on future claims—i.e., for work done after May 14, 1947—provides that no employer shall be subject to liability or to punishment for failure to pay for walking, riding or traveling to and from the actual place of work, or activities which are preliminary or postliminary to the principal activities of the employee. The employer is not relieved from punishment or liability for failure to pay for such activities, however, if such activity is compensable by custom or contract.

Miscellaneous Provisions Important

The section of the Portal Pay Act containing the so-called miscellaneous provisions is probably of more importance to canners than the other two sections. Of primary interest is the two-year statute of limitations for all wage suits. For causes of action in existence on May 14, 1947, however, the employee may bring his action within 120 days of May 14 even though more than two years have elapsed since the cause of action accrued, unless a state statute of limitations bars the action.

Before the passage of the Portal Pay Act, an employee or an agent designated by the employees could bring a back wage action under Section 16(b) of the Fair Labor Standards Act for all employees similarly situated. Under this provision the employer never could be sure of the extent of his possible liability. To eliminate this uncertainty, the Portal Pay Act amends the Fair Labor Standards Act to provide that no employee shall be a party plaintiff unless he files a written consent with the court, and this consent must be filed before the two-year statute of limitations period has elapsed.

The "good faith" provisions of the Portal Pay Act have a direct impact on the canning industry. In any action based on activities before May 14, 1947, the employer is not subject to any liability or punishment for failure to pay minimum wages or overtime pay if he proves that he acted in good faith in conformity with and in reliance on any "administrative regulation, order, ruling, approval, or interpretation of any agency of the United States" or any administrative practice or enforcement policy of such agency with respect to his class of employers. In actions based on activities performed after May 14, 1947, the "good faith" defense can be used if the employer can show that his actions were based on *written* regulations or orders, or an enforcement policy, of the agency administering the Act involved. In addition to the "good faith" defense for employers, the Portal Pay Act provides that any wage action under the Fair Labor Standards Act where the employer can show good faith the court has discretion to refuse to award liquidated damages or to award any amount of damages up to the maximum provided for in the Act.

"Area of Production" Provision

The Portal Pay Act contains a special provision with reference to the Administrator's "area of production" regulations under the Fair Labor Standards Act. It will be remembered that the United States Supreme Court declared the Administrator's "area of production" regulations invalid in 1944, and the Administrator finally issued new regulations on December 26, 1946. (See INFORMATION LETTER for January 4, 1947, page 4.) The new statute declares that no employer shall be subject to liability or punishment for any failure to pay minimum wages or overtime pay before December 26, 1946, if he was exempt under "area of production" regulations in effect at the time the activity was performed or if he would have been exempt under the "area of production" regulations recently put into effect. This latter provision in effect makes the Administrator's recent "area of production" regulations retroactive to October 24, 1938.

Meetings

Budd to Address Grocers Meet

Assistant Secretary Nelson H. Budd will address the annual convention of the United States Wholesale Grocers Association, Inc., at Dallas, Tex., on June 10. Subject of Mr. Budd's address will be "Canned Foods Outlook."

N.C.A. At Michigan Meeting

Dr. Charles H. Mahoney, Director of the Association's Raw Products Bureau, and Miss Katherine R. Smith, Director of the N.C.A. Home Economics Division, addressed the spring meeting of the Michigan Canners Association at Traverse City, Mich., on June 2. Subject of Dr. Mahoney's address was "Importance of Canner-Grower Relations in the Cherry Canning Industry." Miss Smith discussed "Canned Foods on America's Tables."

Forthcoming Meetings

June 9-11—Grocery Manufacturers of America, Inc., Mid-year Meeting, Skytop Lodge, Skytop, Pa.

June 10-11—U. S. Wholesale Grocers Association, Annual Meeting, Adolphus Hotel, Dallas, Texas.

June 11-13—American Marketing Association, Spring Conference, Hotel Commodore, New York, N. Y.

June 16-17—Maine Canners Association, Summer Meeting, Lakewood, Maine.

June 20—National Pickle Packers Association, Mid-year Meeting, Palmer House, Chicago, Ill.

June 22-26—National Association Retail Grocers, Annual Convention, San Francisco, Calif.

June 23-July 3—Ozark Canners Association, Technicians School, Fayetteville, Ark.

June 23-24—National-American Wholesale Grocers Association, Mid-year Meeting, Palace Hotel, San Francisco, Calif.

July 1-18—Indiana Canners Association, Annual Technicians' School, Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind.

July 9-18—Indiana Canners Association, Mold Count School, Horticulture Department, Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind.

July 23-August 1—Association of New York State Canners Inc., Mold Count School, Geneva Experiment Station, Geneva, N. Y.

November 6-7—Ozark Canners Association, Fall Meeting, Connor Hotel, Joplin, Mo.

November 10-12—Grocery Manufacturers of America, Inc., 39th Annual Meeting, Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York, N. Y.

November 20-21—Iowa-Nebraska Canners Association, Annual Convention, Savery Hotel, Des Moines, Iowa.

November 20-21—Indiana Canners Association, Fall Convention, Claypool Hotel, Indianapolis, Ind.

December 4-5—Tri-State Packers Association, Fall Convention, Traymore Hotel, Atlantic City, N. J.

January 13-17—National Food Brokers Association, Annual Meeting, Atlantic City, N. J.

January 18-23—National Canners Association, Annual Convention (hotel to be announced), Atlantic City, N. J.

January 18-23—Canning Machinery & Supplies Association, Annual Exhibit, Convention Hall, Atlantic City, N. J.

January 19—National-American Wholesale Grocers Association, Annual Convention, Atlantic City, N. J.

Congress

General Labor Legislation

Omnibus labor legislation, cited as the Labor Management Relations Act of 1947, was expected to receive Congressional approval late yesterday and be sent to the President. The House passed the measure on June 4 by a vote of 320 to 79 and the Senate was expected to pass the bill sometime late Friday. The action was taken on the recommendations of a joint Conference Committee that had reconciled the provisions of the bill as it passed the House with the changes adopted by the Senate. An analysis of the legislation will be published in the INFORMATION LETTER upon final enactment.

Farm Labor

The House Committee on Agriculture has announced that it will hold public hearings on H. R. 3367 on June 16 and 17. The bill would establish a permanent farm labor supply program in the Department of Agriculture.

An appropriation of $5,000,000 has been provided to continue the temporary program through the remainder of the present year. The appropriation was included in the 2nd Deficiency bill which was approved on May 26.

Clayton Act

The Association filed with a subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee on June 6 a brief on S. 104, a bill to prohibit sales of physical assets between competing corporations. The Association's brief cited the practice within the canning industry of making supplementing packs through purchases from other canners and expressed the opinion that the proposed measure was not designed to affect inventory sales.

Salt

Hearings on the Bolton bill (H. R. 2717) that would require all table salt sold in interstate commerce to be iodized have been scheduled by the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce for June 11. The Association will present to the Committee scientific and technical information on the possible effects of the use of iodized salt in the canning of foods.

Seizures

The House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce also has scheduled hearings for June 11 on identical bills (H. R. 3128-H. R. 3147) introduced at the request of the Food and Drug Administration to give the agency authority to seize commodities that are being held for sale following movement in interstate commerce.

Deaths

A. T. WILLIAMS DIES

Prominent Fish Canner Once Served as N.C.A. Director

A. T. Williams, 61, Vice President of the French Sardine Co., Terminal Island, Calif., died suddenly on May 22. He was a former director of the National Canners Association and one of the outstanding figures in the fish canning industry.

Mr. Williams first became connected with the California fish canning industry in World War I, when he became associated with the International Packing Co., which after the war became a part of the Van Camp Sea Food Co. From 1922 to 1928 he was employed by the Southern California Fish Corporation, and then after a short tenure with Coast Fishing Co., Mr. Williams joined the French Sar-

dine Co. as vice president and sales manager in 1930. He held those positions continuously throughout the past 17 years.

Besides serving as a N.C.A. director from 1942 to 1945 and on many of the Association's committees, Mr. Williams also served as president of the California Fish Canners Association and the California Sardine Products Institute.

Emil P. Umhofer Passes Away

Emil P. Umhofer, 64, Secretary-Treasurer of the Marshfield Canning Co., Marshfield, Wis., from 1924 to 1943, died suddenly on May 20 following a heart attack. He had been retired from active participation in the business in 1943. Mr. Umhofer is survived by his widow and two sons.

Death Takes David L. Hirsch

David L. Hirsch, President of Hirsch Bros. & Co., Louisville, Ky., died on May 6.

George Cobb's Widow Dies

Mrs. Leora DeLand Cobb, widow of the late George W. Cobb, who was prominent in the development of the modern sanitary can and an important executive with the American Can Company for many years, died at her Montclair, N. J., home May 27, following a brief illness.

Foreign Trade

Colombia Restricts Imports

Colombian government officials have advised the Association that import licenses and exchange permits on canned foods will be resumed in the near future. Shipments from the United States will take their turn in the order of receipt of importers' applications.

Canners making shipments to Colombia during April have been experiencing considerable difficulties due to a series of decrees restricting exchange and import licenses, which were promulgated by the Colombian government during March.

Canners who have shipments ready to be sent to Colombia are urged not to ship unless notified that their import licenses are in the hands of their Colombian agents. Colombia is one of the few countries where import licenses automatically carry with them the permit to procure necessary foreign exchange.

Fisheries

Codfish and Herring Exports Reported by Newfoundland

According to the Newfoundland Fisheries Board, the estimated quantity of codfish salted during 1946 was 107,000,000 pounds, compared with 106,984,304 pounds in 1945.

Exports of salt codfish in 1946 amounted to 110,331,872 pounds, as compared with 111,844,768 pounds in 1945. During 1946, as in 1945, shipments to Italy, Spain, Portugal, Puerto Rico, and Jamaica accounted for about three-fourths of the total exports, and Greece and Brazil also took large amounts. Exports to the United States remained relatively low, at 940,464 pounds, but showed a large increase over 1945 (611,856 pounds).

The frozen-fillet industry, after expanding rapidly in 1944 and 1945, leveled off in 1946, the production of 30,151,140 pounds falling short of the record 1945 figure of 31,403,553 pounds. Exports of frozen cod fillets in 1946 totaled 32,657,261 pounds, as compared with 33,880,925 pounds in 1945. In 1946 the United Kingdom and the United States took approximately 40 percent each of Newfoundland's exports of codfish fillets. Exports to the United States during 1946, of 12,725,095 pounds, more than doubled the 1945 figure of 6,055,073 pounds, while exports to the United Kingdom, 13,118,260 pounds, amounted to little more than two-thirds of the 1945 figure of 19,258,963 pounds.

The herring industry, stimulated largely by UNRRA orders, continued to flourish, production well exceeding the 1945 figures. Exports in 1946 included 5,591,535 pounds of Newfoundland Scotch-cure herring, 43,246,695 pounds, of hard-cure split herring, of which UNRRA took 42,597,130 pounds, and 16,116,420 pounds of filleted, dressed, and other cures.

Of the total exports of Scotch-cure herring, 5,0?3,535 pounds or about 90 percent went to the United States. Similarly, about 90 percent, or 14,781,170 pounds, of filleted, dressed, and other cures of herring went to the United States.

Promotion

Brokers Booklet Issued

The National Food Brokers Association has published a booklet entitled, "History Defines the Food Broker," which outlines briefly the history of food brokers and gives pertinent details concerning that industry. The booklet also describes the history of the NFBA and contains a reprint of the NFBA code of ethics.

Copies of the new NFBA publication were mailed to all members of the National Canners Association this week.

Canned Meats Featured in CMI-AMI Publicity

The Can Manufacturers Institute's advertising and publicity program has joined forces with the American Meat Institute in a nationwide promotion of meats-in-a-can beginning in June.

The American Meat Institute's promotion of canned meat opens with advertisements in the June issues of "Good Housekeeping" and "Ladies Home Journal." Throughout the month of June there will be frequent commercials pointing to uses of canned meat on the MEAT-WARING NBC radio show.

The Can Manufacturers Institute will feature canned meat in the four-color full page advertisements appearing in the June issues of eight leading national magazines and again in advertisements to appear in the July or September issues of the same magazines.

In addition, the Can Manufacturers Institute's publicity program will be keyed in with canned meat promotion during June. News stories, photographs, recipes and radio scripts featuring meats-in-a-can have been sent to newspapers and broadcasting stations throughout the country.

Mrs. Harriet W. Sabine, Director of Consumer Information of the Can Manufacturers Institute, was interviewed on Station WMBG, Richmond, Va., on June 2nd, the first of nine broadcasts scheduled in southern States on the subject of meats-in-a-can. Other broadcasts are as follows: Charleston, S. C., WCSC, 10:45 a. m., June 3; Savannah, Ga., WDAR, 2 p. m., June 4; Jacksonville, Fla., WMBR, 10:30 a.m., June 5; Mobile, Ala., WKRC, 9:30 a. m., June 7; New

Orleans, La., WNOE, 1:55 p. m., June 10; Birmingham, Ala., WAPI, 2:30 p. m., June 11; Atlanta, Ga., WAGA, 7 p. m., June 12; Charlotte, N. C., WSOC, 9:15 a. m., June 13.

Supplementing the advertising is the distribution by the American Meat Institute of full color poster blowups of one of their ads to retail stores and supplying the stores with mats tied in with the poster for use in local newspaper advertisements.

CANNERS GRANTED MORE SUGAR

(Concluded from page 279)

fruits also are placed on the same provisional allowance as other canned fruits. The following table shows the floor on sugar usage established for fruit canners figured at 95 percent of industry average of 1941 expressed in pounds per case of 24/2½'s.

Sugar Floor for Fruits

(Based on Pounds Per Case 24/2½'s)

Commodities	Pounds per case
Apples	.26
Applesauce	4.51
Apricots	5.11
Blackberries	3.72
Raspberries, black	4.24
Raspberries, red	6.02
Strawberries	8.30
Other berries	4.58
Cherries, sweet	5.14
Citrus segments	4.72
Cranberries	10.95
Figs	8.52
Fruit cocktail, fruits for salad, mixed fruits	5.60
Grapes	4.21
Nectarines	9.43
Peaches, cling	4.73
Peaches, freestone	4.51
Pears	4.69
Plums	7.60
Prunes	5.37

Sugar allowances for dried bean canners is raised to 100 percent of 1941 base period. The regulation also changes to 1941 the base period under which soup canners receive their provisional allowance, and increases to 100 percent the provisional allowance for packing catsup and chili sauce.

Pickled cucumbers, cauliflower, onions, and watermelon are changed from an allotment of 70 percent to a provisional allowance of 100 percent of the base year 1941. However, the pack of sweet and sour products must be totaled in establishing the average rate of sugar usage, the sugar order states.

Cabbage, carrots, and beets are given provisional allowances, and the quantities of sugar that may be used for other vegetables granted sugar is increased. The following table shows the maximum sugar usage permitted in canning vegetables (expressed in pounds per case of 24/2's):

Sugar Permitted for Vegetables

(Based on Pounds Per Case 24/2's)

Commodities	Pounds per case
Beets	.32
Cabbage	3.75
Carrots	.16
Carrots and peas	.40
Corn, cream style	1.25
Corn, whole kernel	.80
Corn, vacuum pack	.70
Peas	.60
Succotash	1.10
Sweet potatoes	2.00
Other vegetables	none

The above actions were taken in Amendment 51 to Third Revised Ration Order 3 and Amendment 25 to Supplement 1 to Third Revised Ration Order 3 and became effective June 2, 1947.

B-U-L-L-E-T-I-N

Sugar rationing may end soon, Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson told the Senate Banking and Currency Committee on June 4. The lifting of controls, the Secretary stated, will depend on how much of Cuba's 1947 sugar crop, which has exceeded estimates, is made available to American consumers. This should be known very soon the Secretary told the Committee. The Secretary's statement was made in connection with hearings on a bill (S. 1231) to end sugar rationing immediately upon enactment.

Under the present extension of sugar control authority, the Secretary of Agriculture is given discretionary authority to end any or all sugar rationing and price controls at any time. Without further Congressional action, these controls expire on October 31 of this year. However, the present law provides for a retention of inventory controls on sugar until March 31, 1948.

Parity and Farm Prices Drop

For the first time in 8 months the parity index (prices paid by farmers including interest and taxes) declined, the U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics disclosed this week. As of May 15 this index stood at 229 compared to 230 a month earlier BAE said. At the same time the index of prices received by farmers dropped from 276 to 272, so that the parity ratio, or average relation of prices received to parity, declined slightly.

SHRIMP AND OYSTER STANDARDS

(Concluded from page 279)

oysters. However, there are three separate proposals to be considered for canned oysters at the oyster hearing.

The first is a proposal by the canned oyster industry for a reduction in the existing fill of container requirement for canned oysters. The second, proposed by the Federal Security Administrator, would establish a standard of identity for canned oysters. The third is a request by the Federal Security Administrator for a change in the present fill of container requirement for certain canned oysters to make it applicable to all canned oysters.

Both of the hearings mentioned above will be held at Washington, D. C., in Room 5544, Federal Security Building, Independence Avenue and 4th Street, S. W.

Announcement of the hearings was contained in the *Federal Register* of June 6. The proposal of shrimp and oyster canners for a reduction in the existing fill of container requirement for canned shrimp and canned oysters are not given in the *Federal Register*.

The proposal of the Federal Security Administrator for a standard of identity for canned oysters is as follows:

§ 36.5 *Canned oysters; identity; label statement of optional ingredients.* (a) Canned oysters is the food prepared from one or any mixture of two or more of the optional oyster ingredients specified in paragraph (b) of this section and a packing medium. The packing medium is water, or the liquid draining from oysters before or during processing, or any mixture of water and such liquid. The food may be seasoned with salt and is sealed in containers and so processed by heat as to prevent spoilage.

(b) The optional oyster ingredients referred to in paragraph (a) of this section are: Whole oysters, diced oysters, sliced oysters, pieces of oysters, prepared from live oysters of the species Ostrea gigas, Ostrea lurida, or Ostrea virginica. Each form of unit of each species is an optional oyster ingredient. The oysters are removed from their shells and washed, and may be blanched. Shell oysters may be steamed to facilitate removal from the shell.

(c) The names of the optional oyster ingredients are:

(1) Where the oysters are whole, the name is "Oysters" or "Cove Oysters," when such oysters are the species Ostrea virginica; "Pacific Oysters" when of the species Ostrea gigas;

and "Olympia Oysters" when of the species Ostrea lurida.

(2) When the oysters are not whole oysters, the name of the optional oyster ingredient is the name by which the oysters of the species are designated in subparagraph (1) of this paragraph, preceded by the word "Diced" if the units are diced oysters, or by the word "Sliced" if the units are sliced oysters, or by the words "Pieces of" if the units are pieces of oysters.

(d) The name prescribed is the name or names of the optional oyster ingredients used as given in paragraph (c) of this section.

The standard of fill of container for canned oysters as proposed by the Federal Security Administrator follows:

§ 36.6 *Canned oysters; fill of container; label statement of substandard fill.* (a) The standard of fill of container for canned oysters is a fill such that the drained weight of the oysters taken from each container is not less than .. percent of the water capacity of the container. (The actual percent of fill to be fixed on the basis of evidence taken at the hearing.)

(b) Water capacity of containers is determined by the general method provided in § 10.1 (a) of this chapter (21 CFR, Cum. Supp., 10.1).

(c) Drained weight is determined by the following method: Keep the unopened canned oyster container at a temperature of not less than 68° or more than 95° Fahrenheit for at least 12 hours immediately preceding the determination. After opening, tilt the container so as to distribute its contents evenly over the meshes of a circular sieve which has been previously weighed. The diameter of the sieve is 8 inches if the quantity of the contents of the container is less than 3 pounds, and 12 inches if such quantity is 3 pounds or more. The bottom of the sieve is woven-wire cloth which complies with the specifications for such cloth set forth under "2380 Micron (No. 8)," in Table I of "Standard Specifications for Sieves," published March 1, 1940, in L. C. 584 of the U. S. Department of Commerce, National Bureau of Standards. Without shifting the material on the sieve, so incline the sieve as to facilitate drainage. Two minutes from the time drainage begins, weigh the sieve and the drained oysters. The weight so found, less the weight of the sieve shall be considered to be the drained weight of the oysters.

(d) If canned oysters fall below the standard of fill of container prescribed in paragraph (a) of this section, the label shall bear the general statement of substandard fill specified in § 10.2 (b) of this chapter (21 CFR, Cum. Supp., 10.2), in the manner and form therein specified, followed by the statement, "A can of this size should contain ... oz. of oysters. This can contains only ... oz.," the blanks being filled in with the applicable figures.

Raw Products

Sweet Potato Bedding Stock

Cooperative investigations conducted in Maryland, Virginia, and Mississippi have shown that the best yields of plants, or draws, from sweetpotato bedding stock are obtained by digging the seed roots early in fall, curing them from 10 to 14 days at 80° to 85° F. with high humidity, and then storing them at 55° to 60° with enough humidity to prevent excessive shrinkage, according to the annual report of the Agricultural Research Administration. This is the standard procedure for handling sweet potatoes for other purposes than bedding.

Proper storage of sweet potatoes intended for bedding not only reduces storage losses of roots but also insures greater plant production per bushel of roots actually bedded.

For stock not properly cured and stored, investigations show that holding at a temperature or about 80° F. for 4 weeks before bedding in the field or in unheated frames greatly increases the production of early plants for setting out. The highest crop yields are obtained from early-set plants, hence the importance of an adequate supply.

NEW ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

The following firms have been admitted into membership in the Association since April 26, 1947. Ruled lines are provided in the pages of the Membership List and should be used to enter the names of the firms in the following list:

Buckeystown Canning Co., Buckeystown, Md.

Intermountain Food Co., Inc., 300 East Sixth South, Provo, Utah

Knellsville Pea Canning Co., R.F.D. No. 1, Port Washington, Wis.

Pandora Canning Company, 221 East Main Street, Ottawa, Ohio

Pekin Packing Company, Pekin, Ind.

Ventura Coastal Lemon Company, P. O. Box 69, Ventura, Calif.

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